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March 20, 1896

[Inclosures.]

BRITISH EMBASSY, *Washington, February 29, 1896.*

SIR: On receipt of your note No. 313 of the 4th instant, inclosing copy of a letter from Mr. S. C. Neale on behalf of the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company in regard to the alleged unnecessarily rigorous quarantine which is being imposed upon the ships of that company by the government at Nassau, I at once communicated with his excellency, the governor of the Bahamas, on the subject. I have now the honor to forward herewith, copy of his excellency's reply from which you will note that the restrictions have been continued during this winter because the disease of yellow fever appears to maintain its virulence in Santiago and other ports in Cuba during the winter months.

It is stated in the American press that some 480 deaths have occurred in one military hospital alone at Santiago from this disease during the six months ending the 31st of December last.

I have the honor, etc.,

JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, *Nassau, Bahamas, February 17, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's dispatch of the 7th instant, inclosing a representation from Mr. S. C. Neale on behalf of the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company complaining of the rigorous quarantine imposed at Nassau against arrivals from Cuba.

The matter is one which is dealt with under the law by the local council, and a representation from the consul of the United States at Santiago on the same subject has been carefully considered. The restrictions have been continued this year during the winter because the disease of yellow fever appears to maintain its virulence in Santiago and other ports in Cuba during the winter months. It is stated in the American press that some 480 deaths have occurred in one military hospital alone at Santiago from this disease during the six months ending the 31st December last.

Efforts have been made this winter to attract to Nassau some of the winter visitors to Florida, and a new line which is subsidized by the colonial government has been started under the auspices of Mr. H. M. Flagler to run between Nassau and Palm Beach, Fla., which was declared a port of entry for the purpose by special act of Congress. The local council felt that it was most undesirable to incur special risk in view of the large number of American visitors who are coming to the Bahamas.

The colonial authorities have not the appliances at command nor the large quarantine stations necessary to deal with the numbers who may desire to leave Cuba; and the council, looking to the exceptional circumstance existing in Cuba, considered it would not be wise to relax the safeguards.

I have, etc.,

W. F. HAYNES SMITH.

BRAZIL.

*Sanitary report of Rio de Janeiro.*RIO DE JANEIRO, *February 11, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit report for week ended February 8, 1896:

There were 30 deaths of *acesso pernicioso*, an increase of 15; 111 from yellow fever, a decrease of 23; 9 from smallpox, a decrease of 9; 8 from beriberi, an increase of 1; 7 from enteric fever, a decrease of 6; 48 from tuberculosis, a decrease of 2, and 1 from measles. There were 492 deaths from all causes, an increase of 16 over the foregoing week.

Yellow fever.—The rains and consequent comparatively lower temperature have prevented this disease from becoming more rife. You will observe that the number reported from *acesso pernicioso* has increased as usual when yellow fever declines.

Smallpox.—This disease is steadily declining and bids fair to soon cease to be considered epidemic, but the carelessness and ignorance of the classes most attacked, I am afraid, will cause it to increase anew as the weather becomes cooler.

A telegram dated on the 7th instant says that diphtheria is epidemic

in San Luiz. I do not know what place is meant unless it is S. Luiz de Maranhao, a port to the north of Pernambuco, which is visited by many steamers, and at which there is no consular agent.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office: February 10, steamship *Olbers*, Belgian, for New York, N. Y., and steamship *Anglo-American*, British, for Pascagoula, Miss.

Respectfully yours,

R. CLEARY, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

Mortality statistics of Rio de Janeiro during 1893, 1894, 1895.

RIO DE JANEIRO, January 27, 1896.

Deaths from zymotic diseases in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in the years 1895, 1894, and 1893.

Months.	Accesso pernici-oso.	Yellow fever.	Variola.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Cholera.	Enteric fever.	Beriberi.	Whooping cough.	Tuberculosis.	Malaria.	Influenza.	Other diseases.	Total from all causes.
1895.															
January.....	45	26	16	1	.....	3	5	6	5	.....	177	120	.....	738	1,142
February.....	61	41	26	.....	1	28	6	9	3	171	142	.....	730	1,218	
March.....	71	86	19	1	.....	1	82	4	21	1	206	183	.....	750	1,425
April.....	58	141	28	2	.....	4	50	11	16	4	196	179	.....	839	1,528
May.....	49	104	21	5	.....	1	19	13	15	2	187	138	2	941	1,497
June.....	39	77	73	3	.....	3	3	6	11	2	173	137	.....	888	1,415
July.....	30	51	183	12	.....	7	.....	5	6	3	206	121	1	925	1,550
August.....	34	29	287	13	4	1	.....	7	4	3	199	123	.....	915	1,619
September.....	43	23	289	11	.....	1	.....	5	3	2	200	127	.....	945	1,649
October.....	44	17	308	2	.....	3	.....	5	13	1	235	140	.....	845	1,613
November.....	48	56	208	3	.....	2	.....	10	7	2	229	135	.....	771	1,471
December.....	85	167	154	2	.....	.....	18	17	2	229	138	.....	855	1,667	
Totals, 1895....	607	818	1,612	55	4	27	187	96	127	25	2,408	1,683	3	10,142	17,794
Totals, 1894....	.....	4,715	86	6	.....	31	.....	144	263	18	2,127	1,889	7	9,308	19,221
Totals, 1893....	.....	742	54	54	.....	16	.....	70	81	.....	2,121	1,211	.....	9,093	13,442

Rate per 1,000 for 1895, 29.65; rate per 1,000 for 1894, 32.03; rate per 1,000 for 1893, 22.77.

Transmitted by—

R. CLEARY, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector U. S. M. H. S.

CHINA.

Report on zymotic diseases in Canton.

Under date of February 8, 1896, the United States consul at Canton reports as follows on the sanitary condition of that city:

Smallpox has been common among natives for the past six weeks, and there have been many cases of diphtheria and measles. The bubonic plague has made its appearance during the past month, commencing two months earlier than in 1894.

The year 1895 was a year of general good health in and about Canton. The recent reappearance of the bubonic plague, which was so dreadfully fatal in 1894, threatens to increase. Nothing seemed to check it in 1894 except midsummer heat.